

Message Text

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70

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 COME-00 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 IO-13 RSR-01 /178 W

----- 097045

R 301340Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6171

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, TH

SUBJ: RICE FOR LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 5677

1. ECON/CML COUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED BY KRANKER, USAID (LAOS) IN BANGKOK, CALLED ON COL. NARONG, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF BIFGO(BUREAU OF INSPECTION AND FOLLOW-UP OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS) MORNING AUGUST 30 TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS INHIBITING SALE AND DELIVERY OF RICE TO LAOS AND CAMBODIA. REPORT ON CAMBODIA IN SEPTTEL.

2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF NARONG'S RESPONSE TO PLEA FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO OBTAIN URGENT RTG ACTION ON 12,000 TONS GLUTINOUS RICE ALREADY APPROVED BY CABINET AUGUST 4:

A. NARONG STATES THAT SALE AND EXPORT OF 12,000 TONS SHOULD BE EXPEDITED AND AT PRICE BASED ON CALCULATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE FOR COMMERCIAL SALES, I.E., DELIVERY TO RTG OF TWO TONS WHITE RICE FOR EACH TON BROKEN AND PAR-BOILED EXPORTED. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT DISCLOSE PRICE HE

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HAS IN MIND BUT WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE IN RANGE OF PREVIOUS

SALE. HE IMPLIED THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT WERE INCLUDED IN A LONGHAND NOTE THAT HE WROTE IN OFFICERS PRESENCE AND GAVE THEM FOR DELIVERY TO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. NARONG SEEMED SURPRISED THAT RICE HAD NOT YET BEEN EXPORTED TO LAOS.

B. STATED THAT 12,000 TONS OFFERED BY HIM TO LAO AMBASSADOR BANGKOK FOR SALE TO RTG WAS SAME 12,000 THAT CABINET HAD AUTHORIZED AUGUST 14 IN RESPONSE TO US REQUEST FOR USAID LAOS.

C. RECOMMENDED THAT EMBASSY REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL 12,000 TONS TO COVER NEEDS FOR BALANCE CALENDAR 1973 BE DIRECTED TO HIM PERSONALLY AND SAID THAT RICE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

3. EMBASSY WILL EXPEDITE REQUEST TO NARONG FOR SECOND 12,000 TONS GLUTINOUS RICE.
UNGER

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